

REMARKS

As a result the restriction requirement imposed in the Official Action, and applicant's selection of claim Group I, applicant has (1) withdrawn a number of claims, (2) amended some claims, and (3) added new claims, for substantive consideration. Presently, the election of claim Group I, is with traverse.

Applicant notes that a preliminary amendment was filed on October 14, 2004, and in essence crossed in the mail so the claims as appear in the preliminary amendment were not considered by the examiner. Applicant assumes and has proceeded on the basis that the preliminary amendment has since been entered.

In the preliminary amendment, original claims 16 and 21 were amended, and new claims 28-33 were presented. Applicant notes that in the newly presented claims of the preliminary amendment, the sequence 28, 29, 20, 30, 31, 32, and 33 contains a typographical error.

Applicant has directed the further amendments set forth above. As a first, formal matter, applicant notes that erroneous claim 20 (second appearance) has been cancelled. The correct claim 20 remains under consideration, as amended herein. Applicant trusts that the examiner will assure that the correct claim 20 remains under consideration and that the erroneously numbered claim 20 is cancelled.

Claims from Groups II and III, consisting of claims 11-18 inclusive, have been withdrawn. Claims 19-23 were subject to restriction as Group IV, but applicant has recast claim 19 as dependent from independent claim 5, while retaining the dependency of claims 20-23 directly or indirectly from claim 19. Claim 20 has also been amended in view of the dependency of claim 19 from claim 1.

Claims 24 and 26 were restricted as Group V. Claims 24 has been amended to depend from independent claim 1, with claim 26 amended to depend from claim 24.

Claims 25 and 27, restricted as Group VI, have been withdrawn.

Claims 28-33 (filed with the preliminary amendment) have been withdrawn. However, the essence of claim 28 now appears as new claim 34, depending from claim 1. The claims depending from claim 34 closely track the claims that depend from claim 28.

Given that independent claim 1 and independent claim 5 will be examined in this application, and that all other claims that remain under consideration depend directly or indirectly from one or the other of these independent claims, applicant submits that all such claims should properly be examined. In particular, the original claims depending from independent claims 1 or 5, recite preferred features relating to maintaining the plate in a stable horizontal orientation, various techniques for the step of contacting the plate with the flow of developer, conveying the plate horizontally by a flat belt, and removing the spent developer and discharging it to waste. The claims that now depend from claims 1 or 5 as a result of the foregoing amendment likewise recite with increasing particularity, similar preferred or alternative implementations. Accordingly, all the claims now presented for consideration, should properly be examined together.

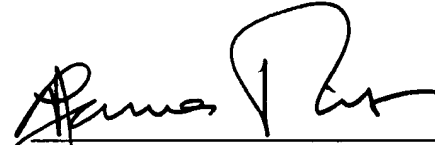
The fee for the additional claims is enclosed as a check herewith.

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Applicant respectfully requests prompt and favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard A. FROMSON
and William J. ROZELL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. James Ristas", is written over a horizontal line.

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